REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 4-17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27 and 28 are rejected. With this paper, none of the claims are amended, none are canceled and none are added.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office rejected claims based on the following grounds:

1. Claims 1, 4-11, 14-25 and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lunsford et al. (U.S. Patent 6,901,434, Lunsford hereinafter) in view of Taylor et al. (U.S. Patent 6,865,683, Taylor hereinafter).

2. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lunsford in view of Taylor and further in view of Hepper et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0220966).

3. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lunsford in view of Taylor and further in view of Oh et al. (U.S. Patent 6,865,400).

In the rejected claims, claims 1, 17, 22 and 28 are independent.

Regarding claim 1, the Office acknowledged that Lunsford does not teach a command to automatically switch off the first mobile terminal device after completion of synchronization, but asserts that this feature can be found in Taylor.

In response to the Applicant's previous remarks that power down state 340 in Taylor can only be entered by pressing a hard switch, the Office states that: "It is true that the power down mode 340 can be entered via pressing a hard switch, however, this is just one way of entering the power down mode 340. The user can also schedule the power down mode to automatically occur (see cols. 1, lines 30-34, 3 lines 64-66, 5 lines 51-57 of Taylor). These cited sections of Taylor show that the power down mode can be scheduled to occur automatically and canceling the scheduled power down prior to the countdown to said power down ending." (page 2 of the Detailed Action)

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the above statement because the above-cited sections of Taylor are not particularly related to the power down state 340.

At col. 1, lines 30-34, Taylor teaches providing an application for mobile devices that allows a user to set a time at which the mobile device will automatically power down, and another time at which the mobile device will wake up. The result extends battery life.

Without further details, this section may be interpreted as describing the sleep mode 320 or the power down mode 340. However, according to the detailed description of Taylor, only the sleep mode 320 has the feature of automatically waking up at a preset time. In the power down mode 340, the device is completely shut down and therefore not awakened when the designated time to awaken was reached (col. 4, lines 64-67). In addition, it is noted that the term "automatically power down" in this section actually means "automatically enter sleep mode."

At col. 3, lines 64-66, Taylor describes the U.I. program 209, which is used in connection with the auto on/auto off program 203. Taylor teaches allowing user to cancel certain actions which may be scheduled to occur. Immediately after that, Taylor says: "For example, before the system sleeps or awakens, the U.I. program 209 may display a count down to sleep mode or awaken mode, and allow user input."

It is noted that programs 203 and 209 are used in the sleep mode 320 (see Fig.4 and col. 5, line 1 to col. 6, line 21) and the awaken mode 330 (see Fig. 5 and col. 6, line 22 to col. 7, line 3). There is no mentioning that the power down mode 340 is controlled by the U.I. program 209.

Col. 5, lines 51-57 is a part of the description of the flow diagram in Fig. 4, which is used in the sleep mode 320. As said above, the power down mode 340 is not controlled by the process of Fig. 4.

The state diagram of Fig. 3 clearly illustrates how the mobile device switches from one mode to another. The mobile device has a wake mode 330, a sleep mode 320, a power

down mode 340, and a user interaction (UI) mode 310. These modes are connected through an idle state 301. The mobile device can enter the sleep mode 320 automatically after completion of a task, and switch from the sleep mode 320 to the wake mode 330 automatically if there is a scheduled event or a predetermined time period has expired (col. 1, lines 39-42). The power down mode 340, which means the device is shut down so that the auto wake up feature is circumvented, cannot be automatically entered (or at least there is no suggestion in Taylor that this is possible). Entering this mode requires an action by a user such as pressing a hard switch (col. 1, lines 46-50, col. 4, lines 55-67).

In the present invention, the "automatically switching off" is defined in claim 1 as "wherein the automatically switching off of the first mobile terminal device is such that all service functions of the first mobile terminal device are terminated." Such a state is equivalent to the power down state 340 of Taylor.

The "automatically switching off" feature in the present invention ensures a device that ceases to be used (e.g. when a user switches from device a to device b and discontinues to use the device a) is properly powered off, even if the user forgot to press the OFF button. In Taylor, if the user stops to use the device but does not remember to turn it off (by pressing the OFF button), the device will automatically enter the sleep mode 320. Consequently, when there is a prescheduled event or an incoming call, the device will wake up and enter the wake mode 330, which may not be desirable, especially if the use has put the device away. The present invention prevents this kind of "accidental" activation of the device.

Based on the above, claim 1 is patentable. Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claim 1, and all dependent claims thereof, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Other independent claims of the application are consistent with claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection to these claims, and all dependent claims thereof, is respectfully requested.

Statement of Substance of the Interview

A telephone interview participated by Examiner Raymond S. Dean and undersigned Applicant's representative was held on 22 August 2008. Claim 1 was discussed with prior art Taylor et al. (US 6,865,683). An agreement was reached. Examiner Dean indicated that the Taylor reference does not appear to definitively disclose what Applicants deem as the patentable feature.

Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all of the claims in the instant application are allowable, and their passage to issue is earnestly solicited. Applicant's agent urges the Examiner to call to discuss the present response if anything in the present response is unclear or unpersuasive.

Respectfully submitted,

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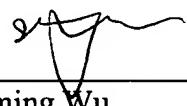
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